

# Athens Suffered Very Little By War

Athens, Feb. 6.—Few large cities of the country that were engaged in the war have been less affected by it than the ancient capital of Greece. Free entirely from the menace of air raids and hostile bombardment, and participating actively in the war for comparatively only a short time, Athens is today in all essential features exactly as it was in pre-war days.

There is scarcely any outward sign that the country ever was in the great world conflict. During the entire progress of the war, all the stores, theatres, cafes, museums and places of amusement in the Greek metropolis were doing business as usual and the inhabitants felt only remotely the effect of the war. Prices of food and clothing were much higher than in peace times but the people suffered from no such scarcity of these and other necessities of life as did the populations of London, Paris and other continental cities.

The tourist, who at one time was one of the most abundant sources of revenue, however, disappeared entirely during the war. The passing years appear on the whole to have made little change in the Athenian capital. If the visitor who knew Athens well in days long ago could pay another pilgrimage to the historic city, he would see still the same quaint sights that have always made Athens appear to the foreigner rustic and unsophisticated in the midst of all its cosmopolitanism. He would see a number of milk goats roaming down one of the main streets picking up orange peel and paper bags in the gutter, while their owner drew the sweet warm milk from them to fill the bottles and pitchers of the busy Housewives who emerged from their homes in response to the tinkle of the goat's bells and the hawking cry of the fustanella-clad herdsman. He also would see the countless little

Greek gamins, dirty and ragged, that are so much a part of the life of the capital and who shine shoes and sell lottery tickets. Another familiar sight would be the old women, thin, tanned, and bent with years, with black handkerchiefs tied under their chins, and carrying on their backs dilapidated hampers of wild herbs and salad leaves, which they dispose of to the abstemious Greek householders of the neighborhood for about 25 lepta (5 cents) a quart. Greek funeral processions in which the body of the deceased is carried in an open hearse, fully exposed and without coffin or covering are familiar sights. Other cities change with time, but Athens seems as immutable today as it was in the centuries that have gone. Three wars within a decade have altered only slightly the life, characteristics and institutions of the ancient city of Hellas.

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